

their vote submissions unreliable, untrustworthy, and unworthy of acceptance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

□ 1015

ADDRESS THE COVID ISSUE NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, well, here we are again. The CDC just announced that we are going through the most difficult time in U.S. public health history. Why are we here again?

Two weeks ago, I asked that this body not leave, and we stay until we finish up the process of a COVID package. Today, we are back here again, still not having done that, and now Christmas is approaching. We will probably be leaving here next week, hopefully, with a package. But right now, that still is an unknown.

I asked before August the same thing, that we not go back for August break until we identify a package and get it done in a bipartisan way, working toward protecting the American people, protecting families of America, protecting American businesses.

Since then, we now have a projection by one of the top groups that have projected deaths, and they are saying 350,000 deaths just after Christmas.

On December 1, 2,760 people died; on December 2, 3,157. Those projections are identified as increasing because of the amount of people hospitalized and the percentages historically that have been indicated.

I ask Leader MCCONNELL to please reconsider his statements. First, he had indicated that we were going to be able to address this issue just after the election. Politics should not be playing a role in this process.

Now it is, when the new decision comes out by the bipartisan group in the Senate, he says he rejects it, and that maybe after the first of the year we will get to it.

How many Americans have to die before we get serious about this? How many of our fellow citizens have to die, our friends, our neighbors? I don't know if there are any family members who have died, but they are in danger, I can guarantee.

Our hospitals, our doctors are pleading day after day after day, do something about this. Please do something about this. We are overwhelmed. We can find beds for the doctors to be able to treat our citizens. What we cannot do is find doctors and nurses and technicians that are working 7 days a week, 16-hour days, going back to their families, going to bed, and coming back again.

I do not understand it at all. If we are concerned about the economy, let's be

concerned about the economy. The more deaths, the worse our economy will suffer.

Homelessness, food instability, increasing mental health issues, education, increasing domestic violence, crime, this is going to continue to get worse unless we address the COVID issue now, not later, but now.

Our leadership has been attempting to address this issue for some time. There is only one stumbling block and that is over in the Senate.

I don't care if you agree with what has been proposed or not. Sit down at the damn table and talk about it. If you have to be there 20 hours a day, sit down and talk about it.

You wouldn't do this in your normal life in business. I have never done that in my normal life in business. When we have something moving forward, we work at it, time and time and time again; and we have to do that now, with COVID. Not later, now.

URGENT NEEDS OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I also want to talk a little bit about Arizona's First Congressional District and our country, on the need to extend the Tribal deadline from December 31 for another year to make sure they have the opportunity to use the funds that were given to them.

There is an assumption that you can, over a 6-month period, put millions of dollars out there and get something done right away. I know that; I am a former project manager. I know to build a building it takes 2 to 3 years to get the planning done and get the work done.

And here, the CARES Act clearly indicated a need for COVID relief for the Tribal Nations, not just because they have not been able to address the issue, but they need to address the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I say one more time, let's get this COVID thing done.

CURFEWS AND COMMON SENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Governor Newsom made a groundbreaking discovery regarding COVID-19 last week. Apparently, it has learned to tell time. Thus, acting under the strictest of scientific standards, he has ordered Californians to run home before 10 p.m., lock their doors, and hide from this insidious virus until daybreak.

Unfortunately, COVID doesn't seem to be following the curfew, so Newsom is now threatening yet another hard lockdown of virtually the entire State throughout the Christmas season. Don't we now our plague apparel.

There is just one nagging question the Governor hasn't bothered to answer. If these lockdowns are so successful, why do we need to keep having them?

Now, we are told not to worry. We are cheerfully assured that the jobs

that are being destroyed are non-essential. That is their term, non-essential.

Well, I have news for these self-absorbed elitists. If a job is putting food on your table and a roof over your head that job is essential for you and the family that depends upon you.

Last spring, I asked Anthony Fauci if he had taken into account the human cost of these lockdowns, the suicides, the drug and alcohol abuse, the domestic violence, the deferred health screenings and treatments, and the poverty related deaths that his policies were setting into motion. No, we really haven't considered that, he breezily replied.

Don't know, don't care.

But before Fauci and his followers took a wrecking ball to our Nation, poverty had dropped to its lowest rate since 1959. Unemployment was the lowest in 50 years. The income gap was narrowing. Wages showed their strongest growth in 40 years.

How many millions of these jobs have now been wantonly destroyed by autocratic officials who seem oblivious to the damage that they are causing?

Now, according to the CDC's best estimate, those under 50 have a 99.98 percent chance of recovering from COVID, if they get it at all; 99.98 percent. And 40 percent who get it don't even know they have it.

Even for the most vulnerable group, over 70, the survival rate is 94.6 percent.

Now, Sweden did not force its businesses to close. Sweden didn't shut down its schools and abandon its children to the streets. Sweden didn't even adopt a mask mandate.

Sweden did what free societies do; they gave the best advice they could, and they trusted their citizens to use their own good judgment of what measures made sense to them.

The result? Well, as of this morning, Sweden's mortality rate from COVID is 154 deaths per million below that of the United States. If we had Sweden's rate, that would mean over 50,000 fewer American deaths from COVID.

Meanwhile, Sweden has sustained a fraction of the economic damage that our lockdown leftists have inflicted on innocent Americans. Globally, the United Nations warns that 130 million people will starve to death around the world because of the economic damage caused by these measures.

Mr. Speaker, this has to stop. The good news is that more and more Americans are questioning the lunacy of these policies and the hypocrisy of those who impose them. Newsom's curfew order was met with spontaneous defiant demonstrations across the State. Elected sheriffs are increasingly refusing to enforce these autocratic orders. Pastors are reopening their churches. Businesses are reopening, even as their owners are taken away in handcuffs.

All mass hysterias are driven by blind fear, fanned by politicians and

charlatans who see opportunity in them. And we have, sadly, learned that such fear can cause a free people to abandon their legacy of freedom and independence, their prosperity, and their common sense, but only for a while.

Every time in history that this has happened, there is always a moment when the fear fever breaks, and the hysteria suddenly burns itself out. The French Revolution, the Salem witch trials, the Communist hysteria of the 1950s all had a moment when the absurdity of it all became so apparent that it overcame the fear and the people turned on their tormentors.

Now, I don't know if the recent wave of business and religious persecutions, the unlimited home detention orders, and the demonstrated hypocrisy of those who have ordered them signals that moment. But every shopkeeper who defies these petty tyrants, every parent who confronts their school officials, every person who refuses to submit to the dysfunctional dystopian world created by the lockdown left brings us one step closer to that turning point. It can't come soon enough.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MAYOR DAVID DINKINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great New Yorker, someone that has made us all proud, someone that we all stand on his shoulders, the late Mayor David N. Dinkins.

Words cannot express how we feel in New York with the passing of Mayor Dinkins. Many of us stand on his shoulders, as many of us here in this Chamber stand on the shoulders of other giants that came before us. None of us really stand on our own. We stand on the shoulders of those trailblazers, those pioneers that opened the door to men and women across the country.

Mayor Dinkins was such a leader. He was the first and, up to today, the only African-American mayor in New York City, a city that prides itself on diversity. In fact, New York City says that its strength really comes from the depths of its diversity.

People from all over the world, immigrants, as I was in 1964, coming from the Dominican Republic, people from all over the world come to New York City looking for that dream. Different races, ethnicities, religions make New York City strong. And Mayor Dinkins often called the city a gorgeous mosaic, and that was its strength.

So we honor his legacy and his many years of service as a New York State Assembly member, as a Manhattan borough president, and then, of course, as mayor of the city of New York.

His detractors, and those that attempt to be revisionists of history, will never acknowledge the great things

that he did. But those of us in the trenches, in the neighborhoods that have been traditionally forgotten, those of us that know that our communities lacked the voices to be heard, the disenfranchised of the city of New York will forever remember him for his accomplishments.

Community policing, he got \$1.8 billion to establish the community policing program; foot officers, foot patrol officers, in neighborhoods across the city of New York fighting crack and crime but, most importantly, knowing the community, the small business owners, having a daily relationship, almost as family members, preventing the kind of conflict that is plaguing America today.

The beacon schools that he opened up, after-school programs that became the center of communities across the city of New York; the Arthur Ashe Stadium for tennis, which houses the US Open and yields more revenue than baseball, basketball, and football for the city of New York.

And, of course, that day when he welcomed Nelson Mandela to New York City, it was such an important day. I went to that celebration, and many of us in New York felt that day that New York was the center of the universe. Every neighborhood enjoyed and celebrated freedom for South Africa, and Mayor Dinkins was our mayor. What a great day. What a great mayor.

What a legacy, Mr. Speaker.

I stand here to honor that legacy so that it will never be forgotten that the great, late David N. Dinkins was an integral part of the gorgeous mosaic that he always called New York.

□ 1030

DEMOCRATS PRIORITIZE MARIJUANA OVER COVID RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, in March, our public health experts said that we needed to stay home to fight this virus and to bend the curve. Those public health experts urged the administration and Congress to design COVID-19 relief that included 8 weeks of paycheck protection and enhanced unemployment compensation through July, all with the thought that that was the amount of support that we needed to provide, given the nature of this virus.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to state the obvious: Months later, America remains in the throes of a brutal pandemic, Americans are hurting, and Arkansans are hurting. Every day I hear from restaurant owners and hotel operators who are concerned about whether or not they will stay in business and whether or not they can survive.

Central Arkansans tell me that they are spending more time worried about their school kids, keeping their schools open, and having reliable broadband to

be able to do telemedicine and tele-education. More central Arkansans are taking their meals at food banks. Mr. Speaker, frontline workers depend on help and our health industry to deliver the care that is essential.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, for what has the House leadership and Speaker PELOSI brought us back to Washington, D.C., to consider? Is it to consider this much-needed delivered COVID-19 relief for the American people?

No.

Is it to extend the deadline for the Paycheck Protection Program or bring the discharge petition to the House floor that House Republicans have proposed, that has over 180 signatures of this body to help our small businesses who desperately need that assistance?

No.

Mr. Speaker, while Arkansans and Americans are suffering, and while Republicans are working to extend critical assistance like the Paycheck Protection Program, our House Democratic leadership is putting a bill to legalize pot on the floor of the United States House for a vote.

Let that sink in. In the midst of this pandemic and in the midst of calls across the country to help the American people, our leadership in this House has proposed a bill to legalize pot.

My friends on the other side of the aisle are showing just how much they are out of touch with conditions in our country today. People are working to make ends meet for their families. They are trying to educate their children while juggling work obligations. They are trying to protect themselves and their loved ones from this virus.

And that is why we are here this week: To legalize pot?

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are leading. Our discharge petition could help small businesses right now, and every Democrat should sign it. Yet, Mr. Speaker, for 40 times, our Speaker of the House has blocked the consideration of extending the Paycheck Protection Program. House Democrats need to follow the lead of House Republicans and put Americans above their special interest friends by moving COVID-19 relief today on this House floor, by calling up our discharge petition and voting on paycheck protection relief.

RECOGNIZING CLAYTON BOOTHE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young man in my district, Clayton Boothe, who was raised to value a broad span of interests. At just 17 years old, he is excelling in many of these areas.

He is captain of his quiz bowl team, founder of Maumelle High School's chess team, and a member of Arkansas' Governor's School and the National Honor Society. He is ranked top of his class, and he is one of 16,000 semifinalists in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program out of 1.5 million nationwide applicants.